



Photo by Homer Morgan

"TAXES MUST BE LOWERED TO KEEP RUBBER PLANTS" . . . In the postwar era, N. R. Crawford, manager of the local Dow Chemical Co. plant, told the Los Angeles County League of Cities last Thursday at the Torrance Civic Auditorium. Among the notables at the speakers' table shown above are (left to right): Reed Parkin, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce; Miss Marjorie Merritt, South Pasadena, secretary of the league; D. L. Butler of South Pasadena, president of the cities' group; Geoffrey Morgan, president of the Shoreline Planning Association; County Supervisor Raymond Darby; Mayor William H. Tolson, Torrance; Hector Haight, regional manager of R.F.C. at Los Angeles; N. R. Crawford, plant manager of Dow Chemical Company, and S. F. Balliff, Los Angeles.

Synthetic Rubber Industry Firmly Established, But Tax Adjustments Are Needed

Red Cross Fund Drive Here 89% Subscribed

Torrance has passed the 89 per cent mark in its subscriptions to the 1945 American Red Cross fund drive, Harry B. Lewis, fund drive chairman said yesterday.

The campaign in Torrance is running well ahead of that of some communities, and particular praise was paid to the work of St. Andrew's church women, headed by Mrs. Grace Stewart, vice chairman of the geographic committee of the campaign. "The geographic campaign is ahead of all other units in the 1945 drive," Chairman Lewis said, "and a breakdown of the results of this drive shows that the work of Mrs. Stewart's committee is to be commended."

The local drive will be brought to a successful completion this week, it is said.

Chairman Lewis, in calling for the windy this week, said that a group of "Quick Facts" presented by the Red Cross should remedy any questions of the need for and the good of the donations to the Red Cross.

He declared they include the following:

Blood Plasma and Whole Blood—Sale of plasma: Red Cross never sells plasma—the whole blood is given to the Army and Navy. They process the plasma for military services—never charge for plasma. Segregation: Red Cross delivers whole blood to be made into plasma—full information regarding its source is required. The Army does segregate colored blood. Whole Blood: Flown to South Pacific via Guam—daily, as ordered by daily telephone communication. This is only "O" type.

Cigarettes and Sweaters—Provided free of charge. Each garment or package is labeled with a Red Cross marker—"gift of ARC"—indicating it as a free gift. Why would any reasonable person pay for it?

Charges in Overseas Clubs—The only charge for any Red Cross service is made at the demand of the War Department, and applies only to men "on leave." Charge is minimum and has no relation to actual cost of service provided.

Overhead Costs of Red Cross—Administration, fund-raising and overhead costs in Los Angeles: Less than 4 per cent (3.86) of every dollar goes to overhead. This includes the cost of fund-raising, administration and publicity. Reason: Only one paid staff to every 300 volunteers who do the Red Cross jobs. National chairman is a full-time volunteer.

Prisoners of War—Red Cross provides five types of packages: capture kit of clothing; weekly food package; invalid food package for ill prisoner of war; seed packages; medical kits. Distributed by International Red Cross who supervise camp conditions and provide channel of communication. The only way we know anybody is a prisoner of war is because of International and National Red Cross.

ON FURLOUGH
Staff Sgt. Tony Moine is enjoying a brief visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Moine, of 22400 South Moneta Blvd., Torrance.

Problems involved in the postwar operation of the huge synthetic rubber plants at Torrance, disposal of federally owned defense plants and publicly owned beaches were topics of discussion by authorities in the respective fields last Thursday evening at a meeting of the League of Cities of Los Angeles County.

Rainfall Here In 1945 Behind That of 1944

Rainfall in Torrance up to yesterday at about 2 p.m. measured 6.14 inches for the year 1945 as compared with 9.94 inches for the same period of 1944, according to figures kept by Fire Chief J. E. McMaster.

The storm of yesterday measured .35 of an inch up to 2 p.m., with sides still threatening as the Torrance Herald went to press for this edition.

Car Theft in Torrance Laid To Lomita Pair

An automobile stolen Monday from George F. Barney of 2023 Cabrillo ave., Torrance, was recovered Tuesday afternoon in Lomita on a tipoff to the sheriff's office and Deputies A. Acosta and P. R. Kelly overlook and arrested two alleged occupants of the car on suspicion of grand theft (auto).

The suspects were listed on sheriff's substitution records as Clayton Shelhart, 18, of 24834 Woodward ave., Lomita, and James Jones, 17, of 1721 West 264th st., Lomita.

It was not immediately determined if there were any extenuating circumstances which might disconnect the youth from the alleged crime, as neighbors hope. Theft of an automobile has become a very serious offense since it deprives a war worker of scarce transportation facilities.

Gerald Andres Missing on War Front, Report

Gerald Joseph Andres, 26, son of Mrs. Sara Andres, of 1646 Cabrillo ave., has been missing in action in France since Jan. 5. Born in Yonkers, N. Y., the serviceman came here in 1938. His wife, Alice, and their children, Gerald, Jr., 5, and Cheryl, 1 year old, live in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Mrs. Sara Andres is employed at National Supply Co. where she is engaged in war work.

Two Local Firms Among 21 Busting War Bond Quotas

During the Sixth War Loan drive there were 21 firms in the Los Angeles area with 1000 employees or more that met their quotas in payroll savings.

Out of this 21 there were two in Torrance, Doak Aircraft Company and Joshua Hendy Iron Works.

More than 150 members and guests attended the dinner in the Torrance Civic Auditorium at which Mayor William H. Tolson was host. N. R. Crawford, manager of the Dow Chemical Co. plant here; Hector Haight, manager of the Los Angeles regional office of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation; and Geoffrey E. Morgan, president of the Shoreline Planning Association, were the speakers.

When rayon cord is available for the manufacture of automobile tires made of synthetic rubber, the public will find synthetic rubber tires equal in all respects to those manufactured of crude rubber, Crawford stated. Synthetic rubber tires in which cotton cord is used are equally satisfactory when operated at slower speeds, but tend to generate excessive heat at high speeds, he explained.

The synthetic rubber industry is well established in this area with four of the six Southern California plants located in the Torrance area, but technically in county unincorporated area and Los Angeles City (Shoreline) district. It covers 250 acres and has a \$7,000,000 annual payroll, Crawford said.

Must Cut Taxes.
He declared that the county will need these factories in the postwar era to provide jobs and to meet Pacific Coast requirements. However, Crawford warned that major tax and valuation adjustments must be made by Los Angeles City if the plants are to operate under private ownership. Much of the plant equipment will be obsolete after the war, and lower valuations should be placed upon it, he said.

Supplementing Crawford's remarks Supervisor Raymond Darby pointed out that at present valuations and tax rates, 30 per cent of the cost of each pound of synthetic rubber goes for taxes, as contrasted with only 2 1/2 per cent in the State of West Virginia. If we are going to keep the rubber plants here after the war this situation must be changed, Darby warned.

Surplus Disposal Plan
Hector Haight described the routine of procedure set up for the disposal of wartime surpluses, some of which already is being handled through several government agencies. He explained that surpluses created by this war probably will exceed by ten times the surpluses of the last war. The problems incident to the handling of such

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Draft Status Of City Heads Being Studied

Governmental services, including the classifications of policemen and firemen, are now termed "essential" to war production, according to word received by County Supervisor Raymond V. Darby from Paul V. McNutt, WMC chairman.

What effect this will have on the status of City Judge Otto B. Willett and Councilman C. M. Gilbert, both of whom will appear for physicals preliminary to induction on Saturday, was being studied here yesterday.

Opposition to Rubbish Dump Grows Here

If Torrance is proposing to use an abandoned gravel pit in Waleria for a rubbish dump as was contemplated also by the City of Los Angeles, the full force of the law will be invoked against this effort. This was disclosed following announcement of the intention of the J. A. Cassidy to establish a rubbish dump on the Weston ranch.

Opponents of the move from Lomita and Waleria are examining zoning laws with respect to the proposal, and recommend the city build an incinerator for the purposes for which the dump would be used.

"If incinerators are properly designed and operated they can burn all ordinary types of combustible rubbish including an occasional old rubber tire without objectionable smoke and fumes."

This comment, made by Dr. H. O. Swartout, Los Angeles County health officer and air pollution control officer for the county followed a satisfactory investigation last week of a combustible rubbish incinerator constructed and operated by the City of Beverly Hills.

Inspections of public incinerators are now being made by Dr. Swartout, prior to submitting recommendations to the board of supervisors concerning this phase of smoke and fumes control.

Lomita residents, headed by L. W. Fraser, who petitioned against the establishment of the Los Angeles dump, said that they questioned the ability of Cassidy to control burning in the dump, and that fires once started may last for weeks. Torrance's experience with rats in its own dump years ago also was recalled by those protesting the Waleria dump.

The city should prepare at once to construct its own incinerator, it was said, to handle the problem for all time.

Local Woman Freed of Charge

Mrs. Mary Annie Hudson, 46, who on Feb. 15 was charged with driving while intoxicated, won a "not guilty" ruling by Municipal Judge Irvin Taplin at San Pedro, March 13, after her case was reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor charge, according to police records.

Mrs. Hudson was driving at Normandie ave. and Pacific Coast Highway near the harbor when her car collided with one driven by Jack R. Critchlow, 34, Riverside, allegedly while he was waiting for a signal to change.

A passenger in Mrs. Hudson's car, Mrs. Mary Kostas, 38, of 1211 El Prado, Torrance, suffered a head injury and other injuries and Mrs. Hudson, officers said, suffered a "bump" on her head.

Caskey Will Address Kiwanis On Monday Night

Robert E. Caskey, of United Air Lines, will address Torrance Kiwanis Club at its meeting next Monday evening on the subject of "Air Cargo Today and Tomorrow."

President Ryan Daggett said that Jimmie Rahl will be program chairman.

COMPLETE 25 MISSIONS . . . First Lieutenants Frank E. Kelley and Thurlow T. Weir, 20-year-old Liberator co-pilots from Torrance, have flown their 25th combat mission with the 15th A.A.F. in Italy. Both arrived overseas last August and have shared the combat perils in flights over six European countries. Members of a 15th Air Force group that has been awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation, they both hold the Air Medal with cluster, won in aerial combat. Lt. Kelley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Kelley, 917 Amapola st., is a graduate of Torrance high school and was employed by the Aluminum Co. of America until his enlistment in November, 1942. Lt. Weir, also a graduate of Torrance high school, is the son of Mrs. Lillian B. Weir, 1408 Acacia ave. He attended U.C.L.A. until his enlistment in March, 1943.



Map showing parkways planned for a greater Los Angeles.

While a certain portion of the war-time inflated population can be expected to return to their former homes, others will remain and settle either in Los Angeles or surrounding cities and towns.

This illustration brings out the manner in which parkway transit routes will serve the population centers in the whole metropolitan area.

Four Links of Los Angeles Major Parkway System Would Pass Through or Skirt Torrance Boundaries

Six Cars Stolen In Week; Owners Neglected Keys

Don't leave your keys in your car, even for a moment. This warning was given this week by Police Chief John H. Stroh after six automobiles were stolen within a week. In each case, the owner confessed that the keys had been left in the vehicle.

"This is the finest invitation to a thief to steal a car," Chief Stroh said.

All but one of the cars have been recovered, and two arrests have been made, chief declared.

Fire Department Saves One Life; Iron Starts Flame

Torrance Fire department was credited with saving one life and considerable property during the past week, in records of Fire Chief J. E. McMaster.

Called to Torrance Memorial Hospital on March 20, artificial respiration was applied to Herbert Fox of Hermosa Beach, after his respiratory system ceased to function, and he was revived after about one-half hour's work by firemen.

An electric iron at 716 Pacific Lane was the cause of another call, and firemen arrived in time to avert a serious fire.

Another call was to Columbia Steel Co. where oil on the surface of water ignited and spread causing considerable smoke but no appreciable damage.

High Powered Car Gets Away With Tires Loot

Because the Torrance Police department did not have high powered cars on patrol, burglars got away with some \$375 worth of tires from A. "Pinky" Palmer's General Petroleum station Monday.

Just as a powerful car bearing an Oklahoma license plate was pulling away from the station, containing the tires, a police car drove up and gave chase. Pursued up Torrance Blvd., the burglars pulled away from the police car and despite broadcast warnings to sheriff's cars and other police departments, they made their getaway complete.

Torrance would be "surrounded" by four links of the proposed 300-mile network of parkways programmed for Los Angeles County by the Central Business District Association of Los Angeles, but neither would serve Torrance's own central district, according to recent releases.

Los Angeles proposes that Sepulveda parkway follow Pacific Coast Highway (U. S. 101 Alternate) westward from Wilmington through Lomita and Waleria to Hawthorne Blvd., then through Torrance northward on Hawthorne Blvd. to Inglewood, where it would form a junction with Inglewood Parkway to Los Angeles; Ocean Parkway to Santa Monica and Sepulveda Parkway would continue to Ventura Blvd.

Also proposed is Figueroa Parkway from San Pedro to Los Angeles. Another proposal is Artesia Parkway, westward extension of Artesia Parkway from Long Beach through North Torrance to a junction with Hawthorne Blvd.

A fourth parkway running diagonally from Hawthorne Blvd. at Lennox through the northeast corner of Torrance to Long Beach is proposed.

The program for construction lists the seven first priority units, representing a total estimated cost of \$29,590,200, to be constructed as soon as materials

become available, as follows: Arroyo Seco-Harbor Parkway from Adobe street to Olympic Blvd., \$5,749,728; Hollywood Parkway from Arroyo to Vermont ave., \$6,385,760; Hollywood Parkway, Barham Blvd. to Vineland ave., \$995,500; Santa Ana Parkway, Indiana st. to Aliso st. viaduct, \$4,022,218; Aliso st. viaduct (east approach) near Aliso st. and Pleasant ave., \$132,140; Harbor Parkway, Pacific Coast Highway to Battery st., \$2,950,000, and Sepulveda Parkway, Ventura Blvd. to Venice Blvd., \$9,355,200. These are all located in Los Angeles proper.

Plans for these units are nearing completion, 75 per cent of the rights-of-way have been secured, and financing is available from funds now allocated.

Starting time of the rest of the great program planned for the Los Angeles Metropolitan area is contingent on plans for additional financing. The addition of 1 1/2 cents gas tax now proposed would yield approximately \$30,000,000 yearly of which \$12,500,000 would be available to this area, based upon 1941 returns and upon car registrations. Of the \$500,000,000 National Highway grant, \$20,000,000 would come to California annually for a three-year period. If these moneys become available, the program for better transit will be speeded up and a reasonably early realization of the plans effected.

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United Concrete Low Bidder on Small Tankers

A Torrance firm, United Concrete Pipe Corporation's steel ship division, was disclosed by the maritime commission as low bidder on small coastal tankers for which the commission Friday opened bids in Washington.

The local firm submitted an offer of \$588,929 for each of four from six of the tankers, 22 in all of which are to be built. From the low bid, building costs estimated by 22 companies throughout country ran all the way up to \$1,476,262 each bid by a Green Bay, Wis., concern.

No announcement of award of contracts was made by the maritime board and United said it does not expect to know how many tankers it will build until return of Cecil Drake, shipyard administrative manager, who went to Washington to enter the bid.

Calling of bids on the 24 small tankers marked return by the maritime commission to the competitive system of awarding contracts after four years of building vessels on a cost-plus system under pressure of war.

The steel ship division of the Torrance firm last year built a series of inter-island Army cargo ships as their first venture in the marine field. The yard also fabricated a number of steel barges for the Army and is currently preparing for expected launching next month the first of four 125-foot steel tuna clip-

Housing for Navy Sought

In the wake of Navy approval of a \$2,623,000 redistribution center at Torrance, Representative Cecil R. King of the 17th Congressional District has appealed for more housing to meet the need that will come when the center needs personnel.

In a letter to H. B. Lewis, executive secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, King reports he is working toward adequate housing.

The vast center will be on 90 acres between Crenshaw Blvd. and Jefferson st. east of the Santa Fe railroad. Several hundred civilians and a limited number of enlisted men and officers will be assigned there.

Indicating the importance of the project, it will be of a permanent nature and for many years will handle the gigantic program of redistributing material and disposing of it.

Bidders on Big Navy Job Seek Specifications

Names of contractors seeking the job of building the big United States Navy redistribution center to be constructed in Torrance were announced this week. The bids will be opened for the \$2,623,000 job on March 30 at 11 a.m., and will be awarded later.

Contractors who have applied for plans and specifications are: Guy Atkinson, Long Beach; James I. Barnes, Santa Monica; Robert E. McKee, Glendale; United Concrete Pipe Company, Griffith Company, W. C. Smith, Inc., William Simpson Company, W. E. Kier Construction Company, E. J. Walker, R. E. Campbell, James A. Terteling and Sons, Peter Klewits and Sons and Stanton Reed Company, all of Los Angeles.

The initial development on the 91-acre site at Crenshaw Blvd. and Jefferson st. will include four warehouses, 202 by 602 feet; administration building and cafeteria, two garage buildings, 9180 feet of fencing, 540,000 square feet of open storage space paving, paving of parking areas, installation of storm drains, grading, railroad trackage, are included in the plans.

Widening of Western Ave. Here Endorsed

Widening of Western ave. from its juncture with Anaheim st. at 260th st. to Pacific Coast highway, Harbor City, from 20 to 66 feet, is urged by the Public Works Board and the Los Angeles City Council's state, county and federal affairs committee.

The recommendations of the two agencies are expected to go before the City Council this week. Cost of the improvement was estimated at \$10,000.

That link of Western avenue forms a bottleneck and a serious traffic hazard, the recommendations stated. The section proposed to be widened is 900 feet long.

It was pointed out that when Gaffey st. is closed by flooding during heavy rains, Western ave. provides the only other direct route to San Pedro and its two shippards.

Part elimination of a sharp turn at Western and Anaheim is contemplated in the proposed works.

Purse Snatcher Gets 30 Days In Local Court

A. L. Sudduth is serving 30 days in the county jail on a petty theft charge growing out of his attempt to "snatch" a purse on a Torrance street. Arrested, he entered a plea of guilty before City Judge Otto B. Willett and was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail.

Ethel Thayer of Lomita, paid \$100 fine on a charge of driving while drunk.

Doyle H. Hornback is out on \$500 bail on a charge of drunk and disturbing the peace, and his court trial has been set for March 29.